

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

## JUNE 08 WILDFIRES SITUATION REPORT # 2 14 June 2008, 1600 Hours

*New Information in Bold Italic Type*

### SUMMARY

***There are currently four wildfires in VA.*** Poor Mountain Fire in Montgomery County was threatening multiple communication tower sites on 12 June; Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge Fire in cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake; Richardson Knob Fire in Warren and Shenandoah Counties; ***North Mountain in Botetourt County.***

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations with normal staffing. ***Planning Section is active providing a coordinated Commonwealth picture of the situation.*** Incident Management Cadre is on alert.

### WEATHER FORECAST

***Saturday, 14 June: Flash Flood Warning in effect until 2115 hrs for several locations in Southwest VA. Code Orange Air Quality Alert in effect for the Commonwealth due to smoke from wildfires in Virginia and North Carolina. Mostly sunny with areas of smoke across Central, Southeast and Eastern VA; partly to mostly cloudy across remainder of state; chance of showers and thunderstorms developing this afternoon and evening; some storms could become severe; high temps upper 70's (SWVA) to mid 90's (Central) with overnight lows low to upper 60's; south – southwest winds 5-15 MPH***

***Sunday, 15 June: Partly to mostly sunny; 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms across Central, South Central and Southeast VA; high temps low to upper 80's with overnight lows upper 50's to upper 60's; north – northwest winds 5-10 MPH will become light and variable in the evening.***

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** VA Department of Forestry (VDOF) reports that the Poor Mountain Wildfire in Montgomery County has burned approximately 250 acres and is projected to burn approximately 890 acres after containment lines and burning operations are completed. VDOF reports approximately ***80*** personnel, 2 dozers with operators and 1 helicopter assisting local fire departments with fire suppression operations. Lightning is the probable cause of the fire. The fire is ***90%*** contained with 100% containment project by Monday, 16 June, ***and is a low intensity fire and rain on 13 June aided fire suppression; however, it also increased the safety factor and impacted installation of containment lines. Burn out operations that were scheduled for 14 June has been rescheduled to 15 June depending on the weather.***

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reports the Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge Wildfire in Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, along the VA/NC border, is estimated to have burned 1,000 acres and crossed over into Gates County, North Carolina. A piece of construction equipment that caught fire is the probable cause of the fire. Area communities are affected by smoke, but there are no homes in the direction of the fire's current path. The fire is being managed by a US Forest Service Type 2 Incident Management Team. ***The fire is 10% contained and continues to grow. There are about 90 personnel on site to include 8 from the VA Department of Forestry along with personnel and resources from Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, NC Department of Forest Resources, City of Chesapeake***

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***Fire Department and City of Suffolk Fire Department. Ground resources are being supported by helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. A temporary flight restriction is in place up to 3,000 feet above the fire.***

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Richardson Knob Wildfire in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is located on the northern end of Massanutten Mountain in rough, steep, rocky terrain and difficult to access which is hampering containment efforts. The fire is estimated to have burned 200 acres, is not contained and there is no estimated containment time. Currently, there are approximately **80** personnel on site to include 1 dozer with operator from VA Department of Forestry. USFS held a public meeting on 13 June at the Fortsmouth Fire Department. Lightning is the probable cause of the fire. ***Two additional 20 person fire crews arrived on scene early today to supplement resources in fire suppression operations.***

***US Forest Service (USFS) reported a 10 acre fire is burning on North Mountain in Botetourt County. USFS is managing the fire and has named it the Landfill Fire and indicated it was probably caused by a lightning strike.***

**ESF 5 – Emergency Management:** VDEM has created an event in WebEOC “2008-06 Wildfires”, and the Incident Management Cadre has been alerted. VEOC is monitoring WebEOC, maintaining situational awareness and monitoring and coordinating request for wildfire assistance with VA Department of Forestry and prepared to assist.

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:** VDEM worked request from Montgomery County Emergency Management for Local Support Services Trailer housed in VDEM Region 6 deployed to serve as Incident Command Post through Tuesday, 17 June. ***VDEM Region 6 Coordinator deliverer and set the trailer up for operations on 13 June.***

**ESF 8 – Public Health:** New River Health District Planner has been in contact with Montgomery County Emergency Management and will continue to monitor situation and standby to assist if the Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance’s STIP (stabilization treatment in place-field hospital) and Mobile Interoperable Communications trailer are requested.

**Local Support Services:** VDEM Region 6 Coordinator is in contact with Montgomery County Emergency Management and has deployed the Local Support Services Trailer housed in Region 6.

### **PLANNING SECTION**

**Situation/Documentation Unit:** Monitoring situation and issuing situation reports. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Monday, 16 June 2008.***

### **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

Montgomery County declared a local emergency on 12 June at approximately 1050 hrs and has established the Incident Command Post at Eastern Montgomery High School in the Elliston section of the county.

Prepared by: Michael Gray, Operations Plans Chief  
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator  
/s/ Harry Colestock, Operations Director